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Pearl Harbor Shipyard Finishes USS Lake Erie On Time, Within Budget

**By Marshall Fukuki
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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard finished a highly challenging Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) on USS *Lake Erie* (CG 70) on time and within budget April 29.

“It was a win for our ship and a win for the Hawaii maintenance community,” said Capt. Ronald Boxall, commanding officer of *Lake Erie*. “I want to thank all concerned.”

About \$35.6 million of work was completed during the 19-week project. According to Project Manager Yvonne Caires, an SRA of this type usually lasts around nine weeks. The main reason for the longer duration was an extensive and very complex Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) upgrade.

“This availability had a huge potential to fail,” Boxall said. Not only was the BMD upgrade a first-ever installation, but the available workforce was also juggling demands from many other ships, he noted. “Combined with other huge coordinated repairs and installations, ... we were not optimistic at the outset.”

However, Boxall noted that “from the beginning, our key to success was excellent planning by the maintenance team, forcing an integrated schedule early and often, maintaining constant communication, and vigilance in adhering to the agreed-upon integrated schedule.”

Boxall was particularly pleased that he was able to operate his ship as a training platform during much of the SRA.

“More impressive than the timely completion ... was the fact that we were able to successfully train ship's force, from engineering to combat systems, over a month prior to the end of the availability,” he said.

Caires pointed out that under the Navy’s SHIPMAIN initiative for surface ship maintenance, the captain of the ship heads the maintenance team. Boxall stressed communication and was very involved in the availability and the schedule, she said.

“He wanted to know the road bumps ahead and our plans to fix them, and have the ship work with us to resolve them,” she said.

She also commended *Lake Erie*’s crew and SRA Coordinator Lt. Jeff Peterson, contractor BAE Systems, the many Alteration Installation Teams, and the Defense Missile Agency.

“They were all good to work with,” she said.

Shipyard Commander Capt. Gregory Thomas credited Boxall’s leadership as “the key enabler to success” on the SRA. “He did a remarkable job creating a maintenance teamwork that was unprecedented in my two years here,” Thomas said.

Boxall said, “*Lake Erie* is fortunate to have had such a professional and dedicated, integrated maintenance team. Although there is always room for improvement, ... we should all be proud of the accomplishments during this (Chief of Naval Operations) availability.”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$620 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. The Shipyard, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.